Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. –11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) A computer-based drill-through path administration method for use in a framework having a plurality of drill-through sources and drill-through targets, the method comprising steps of:

a) defining the drill-through sources and targets at least in part by metadata;

b) displaying the drill-through sources and targets;

c) accepting from a tool user an indication of the drill-through sources and targets for which a drill-through path is required; and

d) for each source for which a drill-through path is required;

   i) importing the source;

   ii) for each drill-through path, associating the drill-through source and target using the metadata;

   iii) collecting the drill-through path in a data structure;

   iv) accepting from a tool user an indication to select one or more drill-through paths in the data structure;

   v) accepting from a tool user an indication to edit the selected drill-through paths to select appropriate parameters; and

   vi) encapsulating the selected drill-through paths in a program library[[.]];

wherein the step of accepting from a tool user an indication of the drill-through sources and targets for which a drill-through path is required uses a graphical user interface whereon the tool user draws lines connecting nodes representing the drill-through source and target for the drill-through path.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) The drill-through path administration method of claim 12, wherein the step of associating comprises the step of determining automatically the drill-through paths for the required sources and targets, the step of determining comprising the steps of:

a) comparing the source and target parameter names of the drill-through source and target;

b) if the source and target parameter names match, then establishing a mapping between the source and target parameters; and

c) if the source and target parameter names do not match then performing the steps of:

i) searching for other information regarding the parameters which match and establishing one or more preliminary mappings between the source and target;

ii) presenting a tool user with a list of the one or more preliminary mappings from which to make a selection;

iii) accepting from a tool user an indication to select from the list of the one or more preliminary mappings; and

iv) adding the selected preliminary mappings to the list of mappings established by matching parameter names.

15. (Original) The drill-through path administration method of claim 12, wherein the program library is an entity selected from the group consisting of dynamically shared library, and plug-in.

16. (Original) The drill-through path administration method of claim 12, wherein the source comprises one or more databases or applications provided by a third party.

17. (Currently amended) A computer-based drill-through path administration system for use within a computer-based business modeling tool having a framework comprising drill-through sources and drill-through targets, the drill-through path administration system comprising:

a) means for defining the drill-through sources and targets at least in part by metadata;

b) means for displaying the drill-through path sources and targets;

c) means for accepting from a tool user an indication of the drill-through sources and targets for which a drill-through path is required;

d) means for importing the source for each source for which a drill-through path is required;

e) means for associating the drill-through source and target using the metadata,

f) collecting the drill-through path in a data structure;

g) means for accepting from a tool user an indication to select one or more drill-through paths in the data structure;

h) means for editing the selected drill-through paths to allow a tool user to select appropriate parameters; and

i) means for encapsulating the selected drill-through paths in a program library[[.]];

wherein the means for accepting from a tool user an indication of the drill-through sources and targets for which a drill-through path is required uses a graphical user interface whereon the tool user draws lines connecting nodes representing the drill-through source and target for the drill-through path.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) The drill-through path administration system of claim 17, wherein the means for associating includes means for determining automatically the

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drill-through paths for the required sources and targets, the means for determining comprising:

a) means for comparing the source and target parameter names of the drill-through source and target;

b) means for establishing a mapping between the matching source and target parameters;

c) means for searching for information for non-matching source and target parameter names regarding other parameters which match and establishing one or more preliminary mappings between the non-matching source and target;

d) means for presenting a tool user with a list of the one or more preliminary mappings between the non-matching source and target from which to make a selection;

e) means for accepting from a tool user an indication to select from the list of the one or more preliminary mappings; and

f) means for adding the selected preliminary mappings to the list of the one [[of]] or more preliminary mappings established by matching parameter names.

20. (Previously presented) The drill-through path administration system of claim 17, wherein the program library is an entity selected from the group consisting of dynamically shared library and plug-in.

21. (Previously presented) The drill-through path administration system of claim 17, wherein the source comprises one or more databases or applications provided by a third party.

22. –23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously presented) The drill-through path administration method of claim 12, further including the step of:

accepting from a tool user an indication to edit the selected drill-through paths to add parameter mapping functions.

25.   (Previously presented) The drill-through path administration method of claim 24, wherein the step of encapsulating includes the step of encapsulating the selected and edited one or more drill-through paths in the program library.

26.   (Previously presented) The drill-through path administration system of claim 17, further including:

means for accepting from a tool user an indication to edit the selected drill-through paths to add parameter mapping functions.

27.   (Previously presented) The drill-through path administration system of claim 26, wherein the means for encapsulating includes means for encapsulating the selected and edited drill-through paths in the program library.